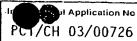
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01B7/00 G01 G01B7/004 G01B7/14 G01D5/22 G05G9/047 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system tollowed by classification symbols) GO1C GO1D GO1B G05G G01P Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 4 642 595 A (RUUMPOL GEURT J) 1-4,8,910 February 1987 (1987-02-10) column 1, line 21 - line 34 column 1, line 44 - line 67 claims 4-6 figure 1 5-7 Υ 10 US 4 825 157 A (MIKAN PETER J) 1,9 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) column 3, line 42 -column 4, line 53 column 5, line 1 - line 10 figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the lart which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-particular to the property of the control of the contr "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 26 January 2004 04/02/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

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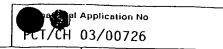
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